Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 – 6 (Cancelled)

7. (*Currently amended*). A method of treating a patient having chronic HCV infection which comprises administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a combination therapy of interferon-alfa and ribavirin for a time sufficient to substantially lower HCV-RNA in association with a therapeutically effective amount of Vitamin E and Vitamin C for a time sufficient to ameliorate ribavirin-related hemolysis wherein the therapeutically effective amounts of Vitamin E and of Vitamin C are in the range of about ten to about one hundred times the recommended daily dietary allowance of Vitamin E and of Vitamin C.

8. (*Original*) The method of claim 7 wherein the interferon alfa is interferon alfa-2a, interferon-alfa-2b, pegylated interferon alfa-2a, pegylated interferon alfa-2b, or a consensus interferon or a purified interferon alfa product.

9. *Cancelled*

10. (*Currently amended)* The method of claim 7 wherein [the antioxidant] Vitamin E is a water soluble Vitamin E derivative.

11. (*Original*) The method of claim 10 wherein the water soluble Vitamin E derivative is an alpha-tocopheryl polyethylene glycol ester.

12. (*Original*) The method of claim 11 wherein the water soluble Vitamin E derivative is an alpha-tocopheryl polyethylene glycol succinate ester.

13. (Previously amended). The method of claim 7 wherein the combination therapy comprising 3 Million International Units ("MIU"), three times a week (" TIW") of interferon alfa-2b and about 600 mg to about 1600 mg/day, orally ("PO") of ribavirin is administered for a first time period of at least about 24 weeks.

14. *(Original)* The method of claim 7 wherein the combination therapy is administered for time period at least about 48 weeks.

15. *(Original)* The method of claim 13 which further comprises administering about 600 to about 1600 mg per day of ribavirin in association with the antioxidant for a second time period of at least about 24 weeks after the end of the first time period.

16. *(Original)*The method of claim 14 which further comprises administering about 600 to about 1600 mg/day of ribavirin in association with the antioxidant for a third time period of at least about 24 weeks after the end of the first time period.

17. *(Previously amended)* The method of claim 7 wherein the combination therapy comprises about 0.5 to about 1.5 μg/kg, once a week ("QW") of pegylated interferon alfa-2b and about 600 to about 1600 mg/day of ribavirin.

18. *(Original)* The method of claim 7 wherein the combination therapy comprises induction dosing amount of interferon alfa-2b and ribavirin.

19. *(Original)* The method of claim 7 wherein the combination therapy comprises induction therapy dosing of pegylated interferon alfa and ribavirin.

Claims 20 – 46 Cancelled.

47. *(Currently amended).* A method of treating a patient having chronic HCV infection which comprises administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a combination therapy of pegylated interferon-alfa and ribavirin for a time sufficient to substantially lower HCV-RNA in association with a therapeutically effective amount of Vitamin E and Vitamin C for a time sufficient to ameliorate ribavirin-related hemolysis wherein the therapeutically effective amounts of Vitamin E and of Vitamin C are in the range of about ten to about one hundred times the recommended daily dietary allowance of Vitamin E and of Vitamin C.

48. *(Previously added)* The method of claim 47 wherein the pegylated interferon alfa is pegylated interferon alfa-2a.

49. *(Previously added)* The method of claim 47 wherein the pegylated interferon alfa is pegylated interferon alfa-2b.

50. *(Currently amended)* The method of claim 47 wherein the time for administering the combination therapy in association with the therapeutically effective amount of Vitamin E and Vitamin C [and] is a period of at least about 24 weeks.

51. *(Previously added)* The method of claim 47 wherein the time for administering the combination therapy in association with the therapeutically effective amount of Vitamin E and Vitamin C and is a period of at least about 48 weeks.

52. *(Currently amended)* A method of treating a patient having a chronic HCV infection which comprises administering to said patient for a time period of at least about 24 weeks a therapeutically effective amount of a combination therapy of pegylated interferon alfa and ribavirin sufficient to lower detectable HCV-RNA in association with a therapeutically effective amount of Vitamin E and Vitamin C sufficient to ameliorate ribavirin-related hemolysis wherein the therapeutically effective amounts of Vitamin E and of Vitamin C are in the range of about ten to about one hundred times the recommended daily dietary allowance of Vitamin E and of Vitamin C.

53. *(Previously added)* The method of claim 52 wherein the patient has a HCV genotype 2 or 3 infection.

54. *(Previously added)* The method of claim 52 wherein the patient has a HCV genotype 1 infection, and the time period is about 48 weeks.